Proper use of English

Roy Meachum's column of Feb. 15 contains the sentence, "While virtually unknown to the general public, Mr. Hays kept a tight-fist on all privileges and prerequisites, the 'perks' so necessary to sustain the ego that beats in every political heart."

"Prerequisite" is totally inappropriate as used. "Perquisite," meaning "a privilege, gain or profit incidental to regular salary or wages," is the correct word for the sentence. Furthermore there is no need whatsoever for a hyphen between the words "tight" and "fist."

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